Today's News - Friday, September 28, 2012

- Norway's TYIN tegnestue Architects wins the 2012 European Prize for Architecture for its humanitarian work and "architecture of necessity."
- Saffron cheers the Design Advocacy Group and PennPraxis for "10 years of effecting change in" in Philadelphia, "proof that good ideas can bubble up from the mire of bad times."
- Move over London Eye and Singapore Flyer, and make way for the even taller New York Wheel - along with a mixed-use outlet mall-entertainment-hotel complex next to the Staten Island Ferry landing (lots of pix!).
- A "group of high-profile architects" advising L.A.'s mayor calls for redesign of the Los Angeles Convention Center: "This is not good city design."
- Schwartz reports on Baker's low-income housing project in San Francisco "that anyone would love to live in," more proof that "housing for the poor doesn't need to be horrible" (great pix, useful links, too).
- Gould and Hosey mark Rachel Carson's 100th birthday by posing the question: "Is the environmental movement losing touch with its feminine side?"
- 2012 Architect 50: the fourth annual ranking of U.S. architecture firms: "They are the powerful and the philanthropic, the talented and the profitable."
- Weekend diversions:
- Carmageddon 2 hits L.A. this weekend, but have no fear: "Artmageddon - Less Car. More Art" is here.
- Bongiorno describes the "perfect storm" that formed to produce Columbus, Ohio's first-ever Design Week.
- Spend an overnight tomorrow night at the Ontario Association of Architects' Future of Architecture at Scotiabank Nuit Blanche in Toronto.
- There's a spectacular "Golden Moon," designed by a Belgian architect, floating over a reflecting pool in Hong Kong's Victoria Park as part of the city's Mid-Autumn Festival (great video).
- "Yung Ho Chang + FCJZ: Material-ism" at the Ullens Center in Beijing is "a nod to what he considers the importance of craftsmanship in architecture."
- A good reason to be in NYC next Thursday: Arch Record's 10th Annual Innovation Conference (great line-up!).
- Heathcote offers an excerpt of his new tome, "The Meaning of Home," in which he explains why Thoreau's and Morris's homes were "so massively influential that contemporary architecture would not have been the same without them."
- Hatherley on the Twentieth Century Society's "The Seventies": "What comes across is the overwhelming post-60s guilt that beset architects throughout that decade." when "hi-tech became another species of an architecture vaguely ashamed of itself."
- Hamilton revels in Zaleski's "Long Island Modernism: 1930-1980": "We could easily have been learning from Long Island, as well as Las Vegas"; the examples "are like ruins in a park. It's sad, but heartening, to see them restored to freshness in these pages" (wonderful photos, too).
- Moore parses Meades' "Museum Without Walls" that shows him "at his dazzling, contrarian best. You should just sit back and enjoy the ride."
- Benfield finds bliss in ASLA's "The Landscape Architect's Guide to Washington, DC": it is "unique in its point of view and fabulous."
- Merkel queries architect Wheelwright about his debut novel: it isn't about an architect or architecture, but both had an influence.

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Norway's TYIN tegnestue Architects Win the 2012 European Prize for Architecture: ...for their humanitarian work designing and building with community participation in poor and underdeveloped areas in Africa and Asia...'architecture of necessity'...- Chicago Athenaeum/European Centre for Architecture, Art, Design and Urban Studies

Urban design groups mark 10 years of effecting change in the city: The year 2002 was not a good one for anyone who cared about Philadelphia's two languishing waterfronts, its fraying downtown....But as proof that good ideas can bubble up from the mire of bad times, 2002 was also the year that two important urban design groups came into being, the Design Advocacy Group and PennPraxis. By Inga Saffron -- Alan Greenberger; Gary Hack; Harris Steinberg- Philadelphia Inquirer

Welcome to Staten Eye-Land: World's Tallest Ferris Wheel to Anchor New Waterfront Development: Harbor Commons and New York Wheel developments...rise from the site of two large surface parking lots at the ferry landing...mixed-use outlet mall-entertainment-hotel complex...to relate to the surrounding Staten Island community while still providing a monumental presence on the waterfront... -- Vishaan Chakrabarti/SHoP Architects; Lee Weintraub Landscape Architects; Starneth; Perkins Eastman [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Architects call for redesign of L.A. Convention Center hall, part of AEG NFL project: ...a group of high-profile architects advising Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa...believe the plan has major flaws..."This is not good city design"... -- Populous; Gensler; Norman Millar; Joseph Coriaty/Frederick Fisher and Partners; Hitoshi Abe; Scott Johnson/Johnson Fain; Paul Danna/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill (SOM) [slide show]- Daily News Los Angeles

Low-Income Housing That Anyone Would Love To Live In: Housing for the poor doesn't need to be horrible. The Richardson apartments in San Francisco are offering up high-class digs in the hopes of helping to lift its residents out of poverty...There's still a long way to go. By Ariel Schwartz -- David Baker and Partners Architects [images, links]- Fast Company

Is the environmental movement losing touch with its feminine side? This year, Rachel Carson would have turned 100. Had she lived, the "mother of the environmental movement"...might not have liked current shades of green. The great lesson of "Silent Spring"...is that technology requires wisdom more than faith. In recent years, however, discussion about global warming has focused almost exclusively on high-tech hopes... By Kira Gould and Lance Hosey [links]- Grist Magazine

2012 Architect 50: They are the powerful and the philanthropic, the talented and the profitable. 4th annual ranking of U.S. architecture firms in Business, Sustainability, Design/Pro Bono, Types of Projects + 2012 AIA Firm Survey: chief economist Kermit Baker discusses the difficulty of the past few years.- Architect Magazine

Los Angeles artists unite to put an arts spin on Carmageddon 2: With another massive shutdown of the 405 freeway Sept. 29 and 30...arts organizations, advocacy groups and community partners have teamed to launch...Artmageddon, with the tagline "Less Car. More Art."...spread out across 16 neighborhoods in Los Angeles County, encouraging patrons to bypass the freeways.- Los Angeles Times

Columbus, Ohio, Inaugurates Design Week: Local design talent and resources seen as vital to creating a new economy: A "perfect storm" of sorts enabled us to align our vision for a Columbus Design Week with the vision of idUS, and the 200Columbus initiatives focused on the future of the city. September 29 to October 5. By Michael Bongiorno/DesignGroup- Metropolis Magazine

Ontario Association of Architects' Future of Architecture premieres at Scotiabank Nuit Blanche: In a 12-hour overnight exhibition on Sept. 29 OAA will transform the trade floor at the Design Exchange into a theatre for architects to present their collective vision for the future.- Daily Commercial News (Canada)

Architectural “Moon” Illuminates Hong Kong Mid-Autumn Festival: Surrounded by a reflecting pool dotted with floating lanterns, the six-story “Golden Moon” is the creation of Belgian architect Kristof Crolla and his firm L.E.A.D. (through to Oct. 2) [image, video]- Wall Street Journal

Ullens Spotlights Chinese Architecture, Inspired by Duchamp: Ullens Center for Contemporary Art, Bejing, to show in its first architecture exhibition..."Yung Ho Chang + FCJZ: Material-ism"...a nod to what he considers the importance of craftsmanship in architecture...exploring themes such as inhabitation and urbanism. -- Feichang Jianzhu- Wall Street Journal

Architectural Record’s 10th Annual Innovation Conference: Design Leaders Envision the Next Decade; October 4 in New York City- Architectural Record

Bricks and morality: Two 19th-century homes that, in their attempt to escape the modern city, had an immeasurable effect on modernism...David Thoreau’s Massachusetts retreat was little more than a hut while William Morris’s Red House now looks to us like a bourgeois Victorian suburban villa...Both were...so massively influential that contemporary architecture would not have been the same without them. Excerpt from "The Meaning of Home" by Edwin Heathcote [images]- Financial Times (UK)

How hi-tech dropped its cutting edge: The Cutty Sark is just the latest example of the Disneyfication of technologically advanced construction: In the week that Nicholas Grimshaw received the Carbuncle Cup...the Twentieth Century Society published "The Seventies"...What comes across is the overwhelming post-sixties guilt that beset architects throughout that decade. By Owen Hatherley- BD/Building Design (UK)

The Suburban Avant-Gardes: William L. Hamilton peruses Caroline Rob Zaleski’s "Long Island Modernism: 1930-1980": ...a fascinating history...We could easily have been learning from Long Island, as well as Las Vegas, when modernism failed at home. Zalenski’s examples are like ruins in a park. It’s sad, but heartening, to see them restored to freshness in these pages. -- Frank Lloyd Wright; Richard Neutra; Mies van der Rohe; William Lescaze; Wallace K. Harrison; Edward Durell Stone; Jane Yu; A. Lawrence Kocher [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

"Museum Without Walls" by Jonathan Meades: This collection of essays on the world of architecture shows Meades at his dazzling, contrarian best...He favours extravagance, extremity, eccentricity, anything but the bland...You should just sit back and enjoy the ride. By Rowan Moore- Observer (UK)

This Is What a City Guide Should Look Like: Washington...has had many guides written for and about it. But there’s a new one, and it’s both unique in its point of view and fabulous..."The Landscape Architect’s Guide to Washington, DC"... By Kaid Benfield -- American Society of Landscape Architects/ASLA- The Atlantic Cities

Newsmaker: Peter M. Wheelwright: ...principal of PMW Architects...recently released his debut novel, "As It Is on Earth"...a professor at Parsons the New School for Design, where he teaches design studios mixed with heavy doses of theory, history, and philosophy—subjects that play a major role in his novel, about a young professor delving into his family’s past. By Jayne Merkel- Architectural Record

"Just Trying to Do This Jig-Saw Puzzle": How architecture's and urban design's practice can change through studying of a little-appreciated Renaissance art, intarsia. By Norman Weinstein- ArchNewsNow.com

-- Coop Himmelb(l)au: Busan Cinema Center, Busan, South Korea
-- Amateur Architecture Studio/Wang Shu/Lu Wenyu: China Academy of Art, Zhuantang Town, Hangzhou City, China

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